

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the identification and evaluation of software products and software product vendors and for creating a request for proposal to send to the vendors comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying the features of the software product that are required and functions that it must perform;
- b) creating a specification comprising said features and functions;
- c) rating each feature and function;
- d) ranking each feature and function;
- e) assigning weights to categories of features and/or functions;
- f) ranking software products according to how closely they match the features and functions in the created specification;
- g) generating a weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
- h) generating a short list of vendors and products using the weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
- i) creating a table comparing selected products with the requirements; and
- j) comparing the specification with the qualifying products.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of generating a custom request for proposal for vendors on the short list and sending the request for proposal to the vendors via email.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the custom request for proposal is generated for all vendors on the short list and the request for proposal is sent to all vendors on the short list.

4. (Currently Amended) An interactive, computer-implemented system to identify and evaluate software products and software product vendors and to create a proposal to send to the vendors comprising a program of instructions executable by a computer to:

- a) identify the features of the software product that are required and functions that it must perform;
- b) create a specification comprising said features and functions;
- c) rate each feature and function;
- d) rank each feature and function;
- e) assign weights to categories of features and/or functions;
- f) rank software products according to how closely they match the features and functions in the created specification;
- g) generate a weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
- h) generate a short list of vendors and products using the weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
- i) create a table comparing selected products with the requirements; and
- j) compare the specification with the qualifying products.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 including means to generate a custom request for proposal for vendors on the short list and send the request for proposal to the vendors via email.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 5 wherein the means to generate a custom request for proposal for vendors on the short list and for sending the request for proposal to the vendors includes email.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 5 wherein the custom request for proposal is generated for all vendors on the short list and the request for proposal is sent to all vendors on the short list.

8. (Currently Amended) A computerized system to identify and evaluate software products and software product vendors and to create a proposal to send to the vendors comprising

- a) devices to identify the features of the software product that are required and functions that it must perform;
- b) devices to create a specification comprising said features and functions;
- c) devices to rate each feature and function;
- d) devices to rank each feature and function;
- e) devices to assign weights to categories of features and/or functions;
- f) devices to rank software products according to how closely they match the features and functions in the created specification;
- g) devices to generate weighted a table of qualifying products and vendors;
- h) devices to generate a short list of vendors and products using the weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
- i) devices to create a table comparing selected products with the requirements;
and
- j) devices to compare the specification with the qualifying products.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 including means to generate a custom request for proposal for vendors on the short list and send the request for proposal to the vendors via email.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 8 wherein the means to generate a custom request for proposal for vendors on the short list and for sending the request for proposal to the vendors includes email.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 8 wherein the custom request for proposal is generated for all vendors on the short list and the request for proposal is sent to all vendors on the short list.

12. (Original) An automated system for generating a custom request for proposal to be submitted to vendors of software comprising:

- a) software to create a database of software products and software product vendors;
- b) software to compare job specifications and requirements with said database;
- c) software to generate a custom request for proposal based upon the comparison of the job specifications and requirements and database.

13. (Currently Amended) The automated system of claim 12 further comprising software to

- a) identify the features of the software product that are required and functions that it must perform;
- b) create a specification comprising said features and functions;
- c) rate each feature and function;
- d) rank each feature and function;

- e) assign weights to categories of features and/or functions;
 - f) rank software products according to how closely they match the features and functions in the created specification;
 - g) generate a weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
 - h) generate a short list of vendors and products using the weighted table of qualifying products and vendors;
 - i) create a table comparing selected products with the requirements; and
- compare the specification with the qualifying products.